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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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TO : All NEA Diplomatic and Consular Posts

FROM : Department of State

DATE:

SUBJECT: NEA Narcotics Control Programs

REF :

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Because of the importance to the United States of illicit narcotics activities in the NEA area, the Bureau has been in the process of intensifying its focus on drug problems extending beyond those of opium production and trafficking in Turkey. An NEA inter-agency working group has been established composed of AID, BND, CIA, Customs, Treasury, and interested Department offices. Programs are being developed for a number of countries, on which posts will be asked to comment.

At the outset, a need was felt for a short NEA concept paper to (1) outline the general problem, (2) set out the principles under which we should operate, and (3) define our objectives. Such a paper has now been approved. A copy is enclosed for your guidance.

JOHNSON, ACTING

Enclosure:

Concept Paper re Anti-Narcotics Program
for the Near East and South Asia.

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PA/HO, Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
June 22, 2004

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CONCEPT PAPER

October 19, 1971

AN ANTI NARCOTICS PROGRAM FOR THE NEAR EAST AND SOUTH ASIA

I. Introduction

All the major problems associated with opium-based narcotics are found in the NEA area: cultivation, opium production, heroin factories, illicit traffic, and addiction. In addition, hashish and marijuana are produced, trafficked in, and consumed in most NEA countries.

The problems are compounded by the inability of some governments to exercise control over significant portions of their territories. Other countries, notably India, have not yet had their control systems put to a real test.

Further, the importance of narcotics' problems as seen by the United States is not shared to the same extent by many governments in the region. Other economic and social concerns take much higher priorities.

Governmental sensitivities to outside interference and pressures constitute an additional hindrance.

Nonetheless, the importance of NEA countries in production of opium (perhaps as much as 1500 metric tons a year, both licit and illicit) and as a major conduit to the United States and Western Europe, dictates that an imaginative and vigorous program be agreed on and initiated at the earliest possible time.

Furthermore, various NEA nations have serious addiction problems of their own, creating a heavy local demand for narcotics and an incentive to local production and smuggling. These factors must be taken into account. In addition, there will be an interest in curative and rehabilitative techniques which have been developed in the U.S.

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II. General Principles

A. U.S. participation should be overt and in support of programs and initiatives of local governments and regional or international organizations, particularly the U.N.

B. Where desirable, encouragement should be given to cooperative efforts among sub-regional groupings among countries where a facet of the problem is not confined within one border and multilateral actions are required.

C. Illegal narcotics production, trafficking, and addiction are world problems, not just those of the U.S., and every effort should be made to convince the governments and, to the extent possible, the peoples of the area that these problems and the fallout therefrom are very much their concerns also.

D. We should determine which countries would be more amenable to approaches or offers of assistance from international organizations such as the UN or from regional organizations such as the Permanent Anti-Narcotics Bureau of the Arab States League, and we should plan appropriate ways of assisting such international and regional organizations in strengthening their own programs and activities.

III. Objectives

A. Short-term:

1. To stop the flow of illicit narcotics from NEA countries to the U.S. either by direct or indirect routes by:

a. stimulating the passage and enforcement of national laws against illicit trafficking;

b. assisting by helping to strengthen internal law enforcement and border control capabilities;

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c. making assistance available to UN, regional, and sub-regional bodies pursuing this objective;

d. encouraging participation by regional States in international efforts aimed at more effective drug control, including a strengthened single convention on narcotic drugs and the UN Special Fund for Drug Abuse Control.

2. To eliminate illegal production of poppy-derived narcotics by:

a. supporting passage and strengthening of national laws against illegal production;

b. offering detection assistance, sharing intelligence with local narcotics authorities, and supporting, through the various means available to us, local efforts to uncover and prosecute drug traffickers;

c. encouraging countries in the area to support the U.S. amendment to the Single Convention.

3. In cooperation with local governments, UN, and regional organizations, to help educate local populations concerning their own narcotics menace.

B. Long-range:

(Note the delineation between long-range and short-range objectives should not be regarded as sharp and distinct. Elements of the two may overlap.)

To eliminate opium-poppy growing by:

1. supporting an international convention against poppy cultivation as well as national laws outlawing the same;

2. developing and supporting international enforcement efforts;

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3. developing a medicinal substitute for codeine and other needed opium derivatives;

4. developing crop substitutes and persuading present opium-growers to accept them; taking other measures to help countries overcome the economic dislocations associated with cessation of illicit production and trafficking;

5. cooperating with countries on matters of treatment, rehabilitation, and related research in cases where addiction is a problem in efforts first to reduce and eventually eliminate it.

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